

From: [Andrew Shapiro](#)

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 2:09 PM

To: jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us

Subject: Climate and Energy Education Funding

Sen. Kitchell -- Andrew Perchlick suggested getting in touch with you. I work with the Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP) and I am asking for your support for climate and energy education funding within this budget round. Students today will be our decision makers in just a few years.

The Importance of Funding Energy and Climate Education: The Climate Action Plan identifies an investment in energy and climate education as a core strategy within its cross-cutting pathways (pg. 227), including that energy and climate education offers "many benefits and huge cost of inaction" and that an "investment in education, especially climate education is a no regrets policy".

Ready to Act: We are seeking a \$900,000 one-time appropriation to be spend over 3 years to reach every single Vermont K-12 school with impactful energy and climate education. We build on our 30 years of climate and energy education and we offer a robust portfolio of tried and tested programs with a state-wide network of educators with long-standing relationships with schools in their regions. Despite the pandemic challenges, we continue to bring professional learning opportunities, interactive workshops, equipment, and action programs to schools for a hands-on, minds-on learning experience. With the right funding, we know that we can reach further and make a deeper impact during the pandemic and beyond.

Why \$900,000? In the last decade, we have worked with hundreds of teachers and thousands of students in more than 80% of Vermont's schools. We have diligently implemented Efficiency Vermont's Energy Literacy Program (ELP) for the state of Vermont for the last 9 years. While our ELP funding has gradually reduced from roughly \$230,000 in 2015 to \$140,000 in 2022, our programs have steadily grown in scope, reach, and impact with support from foundations and other organizations.

Can I call you to answer any questions that you may have?

Thank you! You can see more about us at veep.org.

Andy

--

Andrew Shapiro

Energy Engineer

Vermont Energy Education Program

Montpelier VT 05602

802-522-0165 cell